

# State Bar of California, Office of Governmental Affairs

## *The Sacramento Scene*

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### **LEGISLATURE TAKES SPRING RECESS**

On Thursday, March 21, the Legislature started its Spring Recess. This means that the members return to their districts, and legislative staff can take a few days off before the hectic days of April arrive.

The Legislature returns on April 1, *(and the Sacramento Scene, with no legislative action to follow next week, will return on April 5).*

All of the Legislature's policy committees will be very active in April. Almost all of the legislation introduced in 2002 will have been in print for the Constitutionally-mandated 30 days by the end of March, so the Legislature will "hit the ground running" upon its return. Over 2,170 bills could be scheduled for hearing next month.

For more information, see the [Legislative Calendar](#) provided by the Chief Clerk of the Assembly.

### **ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE INTRODUCES BILL PACKAGE**

The fact that the February 22 bill introduction deadline does not apply to "committee bills" (i.e., bills introduced jointly by a majority of the members of a legislative committee) has never been more true than this year. Many legislative committees, virtually all of them in the Assembly, have introduced a record number of post-deadline measures in 2002.

On March 12, the Assembly Judiciary Committee introduced a package of 12 new bills - ranging from court procedures, arbitration agreements, and

unlawful detainer, to dependent children: substance abuse programs. Several of these are "spot" bills - i.e., non-substantive measures that will serve as vehicles for substantive changes in the law later on down the line.

The total number of bills introduced for the 2001-02 legislative session now exceeds 5,140 - and this does not include over 300 Senate and Assembly resolutions.

### **KEY DATES FOR NEXT TWO MONTHS**

- April 26 - Last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal committees fiscal bills introduced in their house.
- May 10 - Last day for policy committees to hear and report non-fiscal bills introduced in their house.
- May 24 - Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house. Note: "Floor" is defined as "That portion of the Assembly or Senate Chamber reserved for members and officers of the Assembly or Senate" and where legislators vote to pass or defeat legislation.
- May 31 - Last day for bills to be passed out of the house of origin.

### **STATE BAR CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL CONFIRMED**

On a vote of 33-0, the State Senate confirmed the Board of Governors' appointment of [Mike Nisperos, Jr.](#) as Chief Trial Counsel of the State Bar on Thursday, March 14.